

Alternative Concepts

| | Alternative Concept A: No Action/Status Quo | Alternative Concept B Resource Enhancement | Alternative Concept C Recreational Enhancement |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Concept | Continue current management practices. | Increase resource protection through directed preservation efforts and expansion of interpretive & educational opportunities of natural and cultural resources for visitors. | Expand resource-based recreational opportunities while ensuring protection, and understanding of the park’s values. |
| Elements Common to All | <div><div>1. Maintain or enhance significant viewsheds within the park, and from the Potomac River and C&O Canal.</div><div>2. Provide additional protection to natural and cultural resources by reducing conflicts with trails.</div><div>3. Improve existing overlooks and add an overlook, adjacent to the Visitor Center at the Shade Tree area.</div><div>4. Maintain current public vehicular access points and do not develop any new ones into the park.</div><div>5. Provide accessibility to the Visitor Center in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).</div><div>6. Rehabilitate existing restroom facilities.</div><div>7. Provide and enhance emergency access at Sandy Landing.</div><div>8. Improve signage to identify allowable uses on trails.</div><div>9. Suspend access to the park, allowing only emergency vehicles during severe crowding or events such as homeland security or natural disasters.</div><div>10. Add “fast pass” lane and technology for pass holders at the entrance station.</div><div>11. Remove vegetation from canal walls.</div><div>12. Provide secure bike holding areas.</div></div> | | |
| Visitor Services | <div>The Visitor Center (VC) would function as is, with educational and food facilities.</div> <div>Rehabilitate restroom facilities.</div> | <div>Modify internal space in the VC building to create an educational center for resource interpretation.</div> <div>Expand existing restroom facilities at current locations</div> | <div>Modify internal space in the VC building to provide an education center related to recreational activities allowed in the park.</div> <div>Reconfigure/expand existing restroom facilities. Provide additional restrooms in multiple areas of the park.</div> <div>Provide concession run rentals, climbing & non-motorized boating activities.</div> <div>Provide visitor contact station near Rt 193 & Difficult Run and /or Old Dominion.</div> |
| Admin & Operations | <div>Staff offices would remain at the Visitor Center.</div> <div>Maintenance facility would be upgraded at current location.</div> <div>US Park Police (USPP) facilities to remain in the current trailer. Stables for USPP horses rented outside the park.</div> <div>Food service concession remains at current level.</div> <div>Maintain existing use of well water system with holding tank on Jackson Lane.</div> | <div>Replace existing maintenance & USPP facilities with a new facility to house staff offices, first-aid area, maintenance personnel/equipment, law enforcement staff offices & holding cell.</div> <div>Develop USPP stables at transition zone off Jackson Lane.</div> <div>Eliminate food service concession.</div> <div>Maintain existing use of well-based water system with holding tank on Jackson Lane.</div> | <div>Replace existing maintenance and USPP facilities with a new facility to house staff offices, first-aid area, law enforcement staff offices & holding cell.</div> <div>Construct a new maintenance facility adjacent to the lower parking lot.</div> <div>Develop USPP stables at transition zone off Jackson Lane.</div> <div>Expand existing food service concession and provide for vending concessions at multiple locations.</div> <div>Expand concession operation to include riding, biking, boating, climbing, and education or training courses. Concessions to control uses through reservations and permits.</div> <div>Bring public water to the park’s facilities.</div> |
| Recreation Management | <div>Leave existing social trails.</div> <div>Maintain existing multi-use trails. Allow access to pedestrians, bikers and horse-riders into the park from adjacent trails/properties.</div> <div>Allow equestrian access on designated trails.</div> <div>Allow leashed pets into the park.</div> <div>Provide tables in picnic areas.</div> <div>Climbing activities allowed at designated sites operated on a first come basis.</div> <div>Provide limited public access to the river at Sandy Landing.</div> | <div>Prepare new trail plan and reclaim most social trails. Prohibit new social trails.</div> <div>No bikes allowed on the park’s trail system. Access will be provided along Old Dominion Drive and visitors will park their bikes at the bike holding areas.</div> <div>Horses not allowed within the park’s trail system.</div> <div>No pets allowed.</div> <div>Eliminate picnic tables and grills from the Canal Zone.</div> <div>Establish a pack-in/pack-out policy.</div> <div>Reduce number of climbing sites and control through NPS permitting.</div> <div>Add primitive designated viewing areas throughout the park.</div> <div>Eliminate access to Fisherman’s Eddy to preserve the forge site.</div> <div>Control river access at AA Gorge.</div> <div>Provide no public river access to the river at Sandy Landing.</div> | <div>Prepare a new trail plan and formalize many social trails. Restrict new social trails.</div> <div>Incorporate CCT, PHNST and Georgetown Pike Trail into the park at access points including Difficult Run, Riverbend Road, Riverbend Park and along Old Dominion Drive.</div> <div>Control equestrian access through permitting to limit damage to resources.</div> <div>Allow leashed pets into the park.</div> <div>Increase picnicking areas and provide controlled group picnicking through concessions.</div> <div>Expand climbing sites and anchors. Permit use through concessions operations.</div> <div>Add primitive designated viewing areas along the Mather Gorge Zone.</div> <div>Provide limited access to Fisherman’s Eddy for non-motorized boat access.</div> <div>Improve river access at AA Gorge for non-motorized boats.</div> <div>Allow for car-top boat access at Sandy Landing and provide parking at the Quarry through concession permits.</div> <div>Provide access and parking for horse trailers at the Quarry through concession permits.</div> <div>Allow for designated horse holding areas.</div> |
| Natural & Cultural Resources | <div>Remove vegetation from cultural resources and two feet on each side of the canal walls.</div> <div>Keep trees and remove exotic vegetation from holding basin.</div> | <div>Clearance line for vegetation will be expanded to ten feet on each side of the canal walls.</div> <div>Establish a deer control program.</div> <div>Remove trees and exotic vegetation from holding basin.</div> <div>Uncover buried canal ruins.</div> <div>Develop a plan to stabilize and protect Matildaville. Employ interpretive techniques such as reconstruction or ghosting.</div> | <div>Vegetation will be cleared from the cultural resources to prevent damage to resources.</div> <div>Establish a deer control program.</div> <div>Reduce trees and remove exotic vegetation from the holding basin.</div> <div>Leave buried ruins and other potential cultural sites buried for protection.</div> |
| Traffic Management | <div>Check parking lots and inform visitors waiting in line to expect delays when Old Dominion Drive backs up because the park is full.</div> <div>When parking lots are full, entry into the park is suspended and only emergency vehicles are allowed to enter.</div> | <div>Provide traffic and parking message boards at satellite locations along transportation routes leading to the park.</div> <div>Establish time limits for parking.</div> | <div>Provide traffic and parking message boards at satellite locations along transportation routes leading to the park.</div> <div>Add access lane for emergency vehicles along Old Dominion transition zone.</div> <div>Provide public vehicular access to Sandy Landing.</div> <div>Establish a new vehicular parking area, controlled by concessions, at the Quarry.</div> |